

supper and washes his disciples feet. Some were horror stricken, but this did not excuse them. They all must be washed if they would have any part with this Christ-child. Then we hear him say, Ye also are bound to wash one another's feet. And if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Then we hear the Christ-child say at the top of his voice, yea, so all humanity can hear, *Follow me*, and lo we hear some say we will follow thee, but we will not be baptized, we will simply sprinkle a little water on our heads. We will not have the Lord's Supper as he kept it, we will simply take a crumb of bread and a sup of wine. We will not wash feet, we will simply be humble in our hearts. We will not lay hands on sick and pray over them to have them restored, we have physicians for that purpose. We will tell the truth (unless the untruth suits better) we will not be dishonest (unless it is to our advantage to receive worldly gain) then we hear some who say we cannot understand why we do not have the power that the early Christians had. *We follow Jesus*. Why are so many unconverted around us? Why can we not reach them? I believe a congregation of fifty consecrated, whole-hearted followers of Christ, will make the devil flee, and sinners flee for refuge.

Next we see the Christ-child nailed on the cross, surrounded by a howling mob. The earth is clothed in mourning, the friends are weeping. Then we see him in that dark, dreary tomb. But there was no power to keep him there. He burst open this tomb and came forth. Some rejoiced, others doubted.

Finally he leaves his parting blessing, And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world, and he is caught up into heaven, waiting to receive those that follow him in deed and in truth. Why will not all follow Jesus?

Milledgeville, Ill.

JESUS WITHIN.

"I knew Jesus and he was very precious to my soul; but I found something in me that would not not keep sweet and pleasant and kind. I did what I could to keep it down, but it was there. I besought Jesus to do something for me, and, when I gave Him my will, he came to my heart, and took out all that would not be sweet, all that would not be kind, all that would not be patient, and then he shut the door."
—George Fox.

We should be thankful for the joys of the year; We may also be thankful, if not for its sorrows, at least for the fact that its sorrows will not have to be experienced a second time.

WE CAN HIDE NOTHING FROM GOD.

A. B. GNAGEY.

There is no secret that they can hide from thee. Ezek. 28:3. There is nothing that we can hide from God. Many people think that their plans are unknown, but they forget that there is one who can see where no other eye can look, and that even their most secret thoughts are known to God. Bear this in mind, friends, when you undertake to do that which you know is not right in the sight of God. We may deceive our neighbors by false statements, by talking evil things about them, by saying things with the direct purpose of injuring them, and thus rob them of their rights, but one thing we must remember, that we can not deceive their God, for their God is our God and sooner or later we will have to restore all, even to the uttermost farthing, for God is the champion of every man on this earth who has been wronged by his brother or sister, and God has declared that every offender shall be brought to judgment. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." Now we notice that this does not designate any particular kind of evil and, therefore, it refers to any and all evil. Oh! could we but learn to live closer to the divine teachings of Jesus and follow Him as an example.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matt. 22:37-40 To whom does this commandment relate? Who is a neighbor in the sense of this law? In principle it is any member of the human family, any son or daughter of Adam and Eve. Practically it is every fellow being with whom we come into such relation as to have it in our power to do them good or evil.

Our Saviour's answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" involves the doctrine that holds us in relation to universal humanity, and requires a practical development of love to each and all as we have opportunity and as occasion calls. And now at this time, being at the beginning of a new year, does it not seem becoming to us that we look back over the past year and study our lives and characters, so that we may more intelligently look into the future and see what are our duties to our fellow man, as the past is the seed time, the present is the time for cultivation, and the future is the time for harvest.

I think, therefore, that one of our fore-

most duties is, to pray to God that He help us constantly to realize what our duties are to each other, and that we do not injure our neighbor, but love him as we love ourselves, for this is God's command.

MARY AND JOSEPH.

N. A. FRAME.

It seems that an edict went forth from Augustus Cæsar ordering a complete census of the Roman Empire to be taken, and which forced them to go to their native city to be enrolled, and after many long and violent struggles for superiority among the Roman chiefs, the whole world was then in peace under the command of Augustus Cæsar. Mary and Joseph being of the house and family of David, must needs present themselves before the appointed officers at their own town.

It was a long journey in December, when short days and the winter season incommoded the most sturdy travelers, but was naturally attended with greater inconvenience to a delicate woman. But in the Emperor's edict she adored the hand of God, and respectfully submitted to his divine pleasure. In vain did Joseph anxiously seek through Bethlehem for a shelter, in some degree adequate to the dignity of his espoused wife, and the necessity of her situation. They were forced to be content with a shed, beneath which they secured themselves against the inclemency of the night. This was the place and these the circumstances in which our Divine Redeemer chose to appear.

When the night had finished half its course and the whole creation lay hushed in silence, when the hour had come for the Eternal word to be born, the virgin brought forth her first-born Son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because it had been so prophesied, and it was the purpose of his Heavenly Father to exhibit the Savior of mankind in the humblest possible position. Thus the word became flesh and dwelt among men.

O, Brethren and sisters, let us obey the Gospel; let us read it by day and meditate upon it by night; it will finally bring us safe home, where we can enjoy full happiness in our Father's kingdom above.
Dunlaps, Ind.

"BLESSED is he that feedeth the poor," but "blessed is he that considereth the poor." And you know that a little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money. This charity of thought is not merely to be exercised toward the poor, it is to be exercised toward all men.—John Ruskin.